

10/666,138

REMARKS

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner for the analysis contained in the Examination Report dated September 17, 2004. In particular the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 7-9 and 11 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the stated objections.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, and 10 are rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as being anticipated by Yokokawa et al. '748. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised anticipatory rejection in view of the following remarks.

Independent claim 1 is amended by incorporating the allowable subject matter of claim 7. With this amendment, claim 1 along with dependent claims 3, 4, 6 and 10 are placed in suitable condition for allowance. Claim 7 is deleted from the application. For clarification, claim 6 is amended to specify a temperature of 1450°C and support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 6, lines 11-12, for example.

Next, claim 2 is rejected, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Yokokawa et al. '748 in view of Lytle et al. '267. The Applicant acknowledges and respectfully traverses the raised obviousness rejection in view of the following remarks.

It is believed that the amendment to claim 1 also places dependent claim 2 in condition for allowance since claim 2 depends directly from claim 1, which is now believed to be allowable.

Lastly, the Examiner objects to claim 11 but the stated reasons for such objection do not appear appropriate, namely, claim 11 is an independent claim and not a dependent claim. In any event, as the Examiner did not apply any prior art with respect to claim 11, this claim is also now believed to be in a suitable condition for allowance.

In view of the above claim amendments, the Applicant respectfully submits that further comments concerning the applied prior art is not believed necessary. The Applicant also notes the remaining prior art cited in the official action. As none of that additional art is applied by the

10/666,138

Examiner against the claims of this application, the Applicant is not providing any comments concerning that art as well.

If any further amendment to this application is believed necessary to advance prosecution and place this case in allowable form, the Examiner is courteously solicited to contact the undersigned representative of the Applicant to discuss the same.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the raised rejection(s) should be withdrawn and this application is now placed in a condition for allowance. Action to that end, in the form of an early Notice of Allowance, is courteously solicited by the Applicant at this time.

The Applicant respectfully requests that any outstanding objection(s) or requirement(s), as to the form of this application, be held in abeyance until allowable subject matter is indicated for this case.

In the event that there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge the same or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account (Account No. 04-0213).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bujold, Reg. No. 32,018

Customer No. 020210

Davis & Bujold, P.L.L.C.

Fourth Floor

500 North Commercial Street

Manchester NH 03101-1151

Telephone 603-624-9220

Facsimile 603-624-9229

E-mail: patent@davisandbujold.com